

**§ 377.11 What is the content of an application for an award?**

(a) The grant application must include a description of—

(1) The manner in which the applicant intends to promote increased client choice in the geographical area identified in the application;

(2) The manner in which the applicant intends to provide individuals, including individuals with cognitive disabilities, the information necessary to make informed choices, including, at a minimum, informed choices in the selection of goals, services, and providers.

(3) The outreach activities the applicant plans to conduct to obtain eligible clients, including clients who are individuals with a severe disability;

(4) The manner in which the applicant will ensure that service providers are accredited or meet any quality assurance and cost-control criteria established by the State;

(5) The manner in which the applicant will ensure that eligible clients are satisfied with the quality and scope of services provided;

(6) The manner in which the applicant will monitor and account for use of funds to purchase services;

(7) The manner in which the applicant will determine the monetary value of the services or products available to clients, including, if appropriate, the monetary value of vouchers;

(8) The manner in which the applicant will address the needs of individuals with disabilities who are from minority backgrounds; and

(9) Those features of the proposed project that the applicant considers to be essential and a discussion of their potential for widespread replication.

(b) The application also must include assurances from the applicant that—

(1) A written plan to provide vocational rehabilitation services will be established for, and with the full participation of, each eligible client, and, if the client elects, with the participation also of family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, that at a minimum will include—

(i) A statement of the client's vocational rehabilitation goals, which must include goals that are designed to lead

to an employment outcome consistent with the client's unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, and capabilities;

(ii) A statement of the specific vocational rehabilitation services to be provided and the projected dates for the initiation and termination of each service; and

(iii) A description of an evaluation procedure for determining whether the client's vocational rehabilitation goals are being achieved, including—

(A) Objective evaluation criteria; and

(B) An evaluation schedule;

(2) The Federal funds granted under this part will be used to supplement, and in no case to supplant, funds made available from other Federal and non-Federal sources for projects providing increased choice in the rehabilitation process;

(3) At least 80 percent of the funds awarded for any project under this part will be used to provide vocational rehabilitation services, as specifically chosen by eligible clients;

(4) The applicant will cooperate fully with the Secretary in a national evaluation, including assisting the Department's contractor in selecting and obtaining data for a control group established through random assignment or by the selection of a matched comparison group; and

(5) Individuals with disabilities will be involved in the development and implementation of the project.

(c) Each applicant also shall submit to the Secretary any other information and assurances that the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1820–0018)

(Authority: Secs. 21(b)(6), 802(g)(2), 802(g)(3), 802(g)(5), 802(g)(6), and 802(g)(7) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 U.S.C. 718b and 29 U.S.C. 797a(g)(2), (3), (5), (6), and (7))

**Subpart C—How Does the Secretary Make an Award?**

**§ 377.20 How does the Secretary evaluate an application?**

(a) The Secretary evaluates an application on the basis of the criteria in § 377.21.

(b) The Secretary awards up to 100 points for these criteria.

(c) The maximum possible score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses.

(Authority: Sec. 802(g)(3) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 U.S.C. 797a(g)(3))

**§ 377.21 What selection criteria does the Secretary use?**

The Secretary uses the following criteria to evaluate an application:

(a) *Plan of operation.* (30 points) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of the plan of operation for the project, including—

(1) The extent to which the project includes specific intended outcomes that—

(i) Will accomplish the purpose of the program to provide increased client choice in the rehabilitation process, including at a minimum increased choice in the selection of goals, services, and providers, leading to an employment outcome;

(ii) Are attainable within the project period, given the project's budget and other resources;

(iii) Are objective and measurable for purposes of evaluation, including an estimate of the numbers of clients to be served;

(iv) Include objectives to be met during each budget period that can be used to determine the progress of the project toward meeting its intended outcomes;

(2) The extent to which the plan of operation specifies the methodology for accomplishing each objective of the project;

(3) The extent to which the applicant's plan of management, including resources and timelines, is designed to achieve each objective and intended outcome during the period of Federal funding;

(4) The extent to which the applicant's plan identifies the numbers of eligible clients by type of disability and the number of eligible clients with severe disabilities who are available to participate in the project;

(5) The extent to which the applicant plans to conduct outreach activities to obtain eligible clients;

(6) The extent to which the applicant's plan ensures that clients who are otherwise eligible to participate

are selected without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, or age;

(7) The extent to which the applicant's plan describes a workable process for determining the monetary value of any service or product offered to eligible clients, including, if appropriate, the value of vouchers; and

(8) The extent to which the applicant's plan describes a satisfactory system for conducting vocational assessment with eligible clients to ensure that a full range of vocational goals are considered.

(b) *Key personnel and other resources.* (15 points) (1) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of key personnel proposed for the project, including—

(i) The relevant experience and training of the project director;

(ii) The relevant experience and training of each of the other key personnel to be used on the project;

(iii) The amount of time that each person referred to in paragraphs (b)(1)(i) and (ii) of this section will commit to the project;

(iv) The extent to which persons referred to in paragraphs (b)(1)(i) and (ii) of this section are capable of providing technical assistance to other entities interested in replicating the project; and

(v) The extent to which the applicant will ensure that persons employed through the project are selected and work without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disabling condition.

(2) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the adequacy of the resources the applicant plans to devote to the project, including—

(i) The facilities that the applicant plans to use;

(ii) The equipment and supplies that the applicant plans to use; and

(iii) The recordkeeping capabilities of the applicant for financial and evaluation purposes.

(c) *Service provision.* (20 points) The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality and comprehensiveness of the services to be offered and the applicant's capacity to provide increased choice in the provision of services to eligible clients, including the extent to which the applicant—